

STATE SENATOR • IRMA CLARK-COLEMAN • 3RD DISTRICT

Clark-Coleman Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 2, 2006

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CLARK-COLEMAN BILL EMBRACES HIGHER EDUCATION STANDARDS

LANSING – Sen. Irma Clark-Coleman (D-Detroit) introduced legislation (SB 1021) requiring school districts across Michigan to adhere to newly approved curriculum standards set by the State Department of Education.

Sen. Clark-Coleman's bill supports Gov. Jennifer Granholm's efforts to increase the number of college graduates and to prepare a more qualified work force. The newly adopted standards, called the Michigan Merit Curriculum, include: 4 credits in English Language Arts, 4 credits in Mathematics, 3 credits in Science, 3 credits in Social Science, 2 credits in a World Language, 1 credit in Health and Physical Education and 1 credit in Fine Arts or Music.

"Our students deserve the best that we can offer them as parents, concerned citizens and law makers," Sen. Clark-Coleman said. "By asking more of them and giving them the tools to succeed, we will have improved their futures and moved the state closer to meeting its goals."

The bill also requires prospective high school graduates take the Michigan Merit Examination. School districts will be allowed flexibility to phase in these requirements and to create individualized learning plans for students based upon their abilities and educational goals.

The movement toward tougher graduation standards has taken hold across the United States. According to a report by the Education Commission of the States, a national group, "requiring students to complete specific courses is a good first step toward preparing them for the world after high school."

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State Sen. Irma Clark-Coleman represents the 3rd Senate District. She sits on the Banking & Financial Institutions, Education, Families & Human Services, and Senior Citizens & Veterans Affairs committees.